

MAR 7 1963

ST. LOUIS
POST-DEMOCRAT

Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100160073-0

Kennedy Democrats Become Uneasy About CIA's McCone

By ROWLAND EVANS JR.

New York Herald Tribune - Post-Dispatch Special Dispatch

WASHINGTON, March 7.

A MOOD of uneasiness about Republican John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is spreading among Kennedy Democrats.

These Democrats, who include some of the party's leading administration figures in Congress, feel that there is a basic philosophic difference between McCone's view of the Communist threat, including Russian activity in Cuba, and the view of the rest of the Administration.

They do not question the CIA chief's basic loyalty to President Kennedy and to administration policies. But the constant questioning that McCone and other officials have been undergoing from congressional committees has exposed what appear to be subtle distinctions in fundamental beliefs about how to counter the Communist threat, about the prospect of a

nuclear test ban and about other major questions touching on relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

WHEN McCONE was confirmed as CIA director on Jan. 31, 1962, 12 Senators voted against him, including J. William Fulbright (Dem.), Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It is difficult to put their opposition in definite terms. Generally speaking, it can be summed up in the words of Fulbright, spoken on the floor of the Senate, in the confirmation debate:

"I do not feel," Fulbright said, "that I am sufficiently informed about the convictions of the majority regarding the foreign policy of our Government

to endorse them by affirmative vote."

Senator Eugene McCarthy (Dem.), Minnesota, who also opposed McCone, said:

"Because there is on the record evidence that at least in the near future the head of this agency will be in a position to make policy, I believe his views relating to foreign policy and to other important questions, not only in regard to the operations of CIA but also in regard to some of the operations which have been carried out in the name of foreign policy, are of fundamental importance for consideration by the Senate."

are beginning to single out and praise McCone, although they are criticizing other high Kennedy officials. Kennedy Democrats are concerned that a possible explanation for this is that the Republicans have uncovered fundamental disagreements between the Administration's and McCone's policy toward Cuba. For example, McCone has made no secret of his concern that the Soviet Union's use of Cuba as a subversive base for the Western Hemisphere is extremely dangerous for the United States. But Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, while agreeing that Latin America is a tinder box for the spark of subversion, doubts that Cuba itself adds much to the danger. He believes that Moscow, not Havana, is the real source of trouble, and that the threat would be almost as great with a free Cuba as with a Castro Cuba.

There are other examples. When he testified behind closed doors to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, McCone was reliably reported to have said that the Republican criticism of the Administration's Cuba policy last fall, before the hard intelligence that offensive missiles were being installed there, startled the American people to the full dimension of the crisis and made it easy for the country to accept the President's 14-day quarantine.

This reported statement McCone followed a series of questions about whether it was harmful to the Government to have to justify its actions toward Cuba and release a pool of intelligence information in an effort to answer political criticism. The essence of McCone's response, those present in the room said, was that it was particularly harmful.

CPYRGHT

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS in Congress made no accusations against McCone. They concentrate on the "wholly different orientation" that they feel McCone has toward the cold war. "Mr. McCone is absolutely sincere and honorable," one Democrat said, "but he is a crusader, a zealot who sees the Soviet problem in black and white, with no shadings in between. The Administration has a different opinion of the Soviet problem. When Mr. McCone is urged in closed-door committee hearings to tell what he really thinks, subtle differences appear between his approach and the President's."

Accordingly, the Democrats are concerned that the Republicans may have found a vulnerable spot to attack in their campaign against the President's Cuba policy. As for the Administration itself, there is no evidence yet of concern to equal that among the Democrats in Congress.

ONE YEAR LATER, the Republicans, led by Senator Kenneth E. Keating, are...
Approved For Release 2000/09/08 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100160073-0